

13. THE OTHER POTTERY

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13.1 Introduction

The entire assemblage, including the samian and mortaria which are reported on separately, consisted of 3,628 sherds, weighing 51.621kg (Table 13.1). About three quarters of the total came from the ditches associated with the trackway, having been washed down the slope from occupation to the west when the site was abandoned (6.2–6.4, above). Because of the small quantities from other features, the pottery from all the excavated areas is treated here as a whole. It was quantified in its fabric categories by weight, sherd count and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs, ie percentages of surviving rim diameters) in accordance with the recommendations of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 1999). For the fabrics of the common, widely traded wares, references are made to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC = Tomber & Dore 1998).

The original catalogue and report were prepared by Louise Hird in 1988. There have been many subsequent developments in the study of Roman pottery, both in Britain generally and in early Antonine Scotland. Hird’s report has therefore been updated. The work has taken place in two stages. In 2015 Louisa Campbell recorded the database digitally (in a Microsoft Excel file forming part of the archive), enlarged the description of the fabric series, also adding the NRFRC codes, and discussed the assemblage in greater detail. Finally, in 2020 Alexandra Croom reassessed some of

the illustrated vessels, quantified the samian and made minor corrections to the identification of fabrics and vessel types in the database. Tables 13.1–13.3 have been revised accordingly. Finally, Paul Bidwell and Alexandra Croom have revised the fabric descriptions and catalogue entries, taking full account of Gillings’ petrological analyses (14, below), and supplied a more detailed consideration of the amphorae. PB has provided a new assessment of the assemblage, taking account of unpublished data from other sites, the recent publication of the Bearsden fort (Breeze 2016) and the late Vivien Swan’s survey of early Antonine pottery in Scotland (1999). Comments and parallels in the earlier reports cited here are credited to their authors (LH and LC).

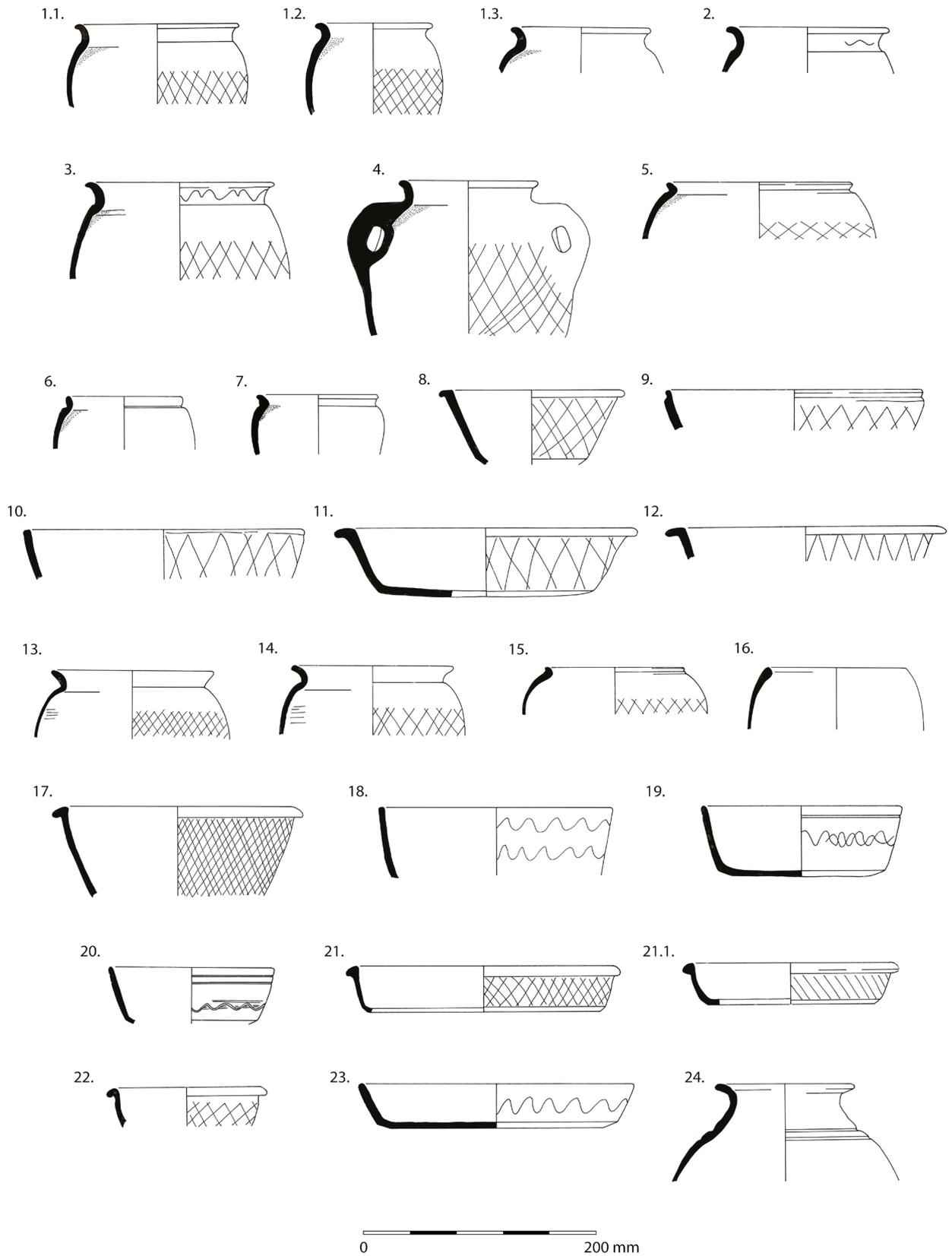
13.2 The amphorae (Illus 13.2, nos 37, 38, 46)

As usual the olive oil container Dressel 20 was the most common type of amphora recovered, including both thick-walled and thin sherds (14mm). There were also a number of sherds that probably came from Dressel 20 amphorae but in grey or pale cream fabrics. A few sherds in unclassified orange and gritty red/brown fabrics represent other, unidentifiable types of amphorae.

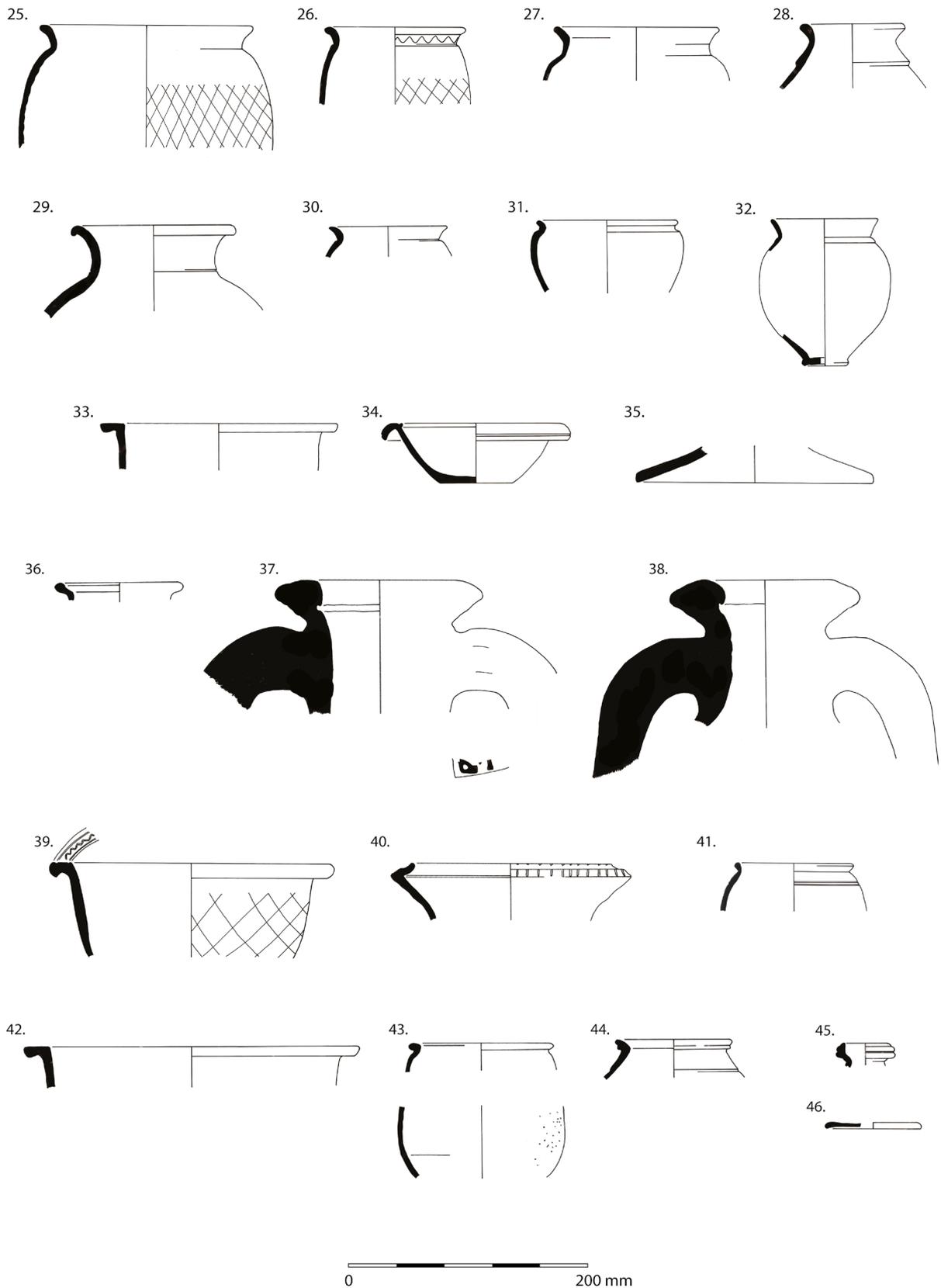
An unillustrated fragment (Fabric 35; from LAM, a narrow drainage gully, east of the trackway in the *vicus*) is from a base with a dimple, rather like the base of a modern wine bottle but with flaring sides. It is probably from a North Gaulish amphora, a type known in the ‘Seine sableuse’ fabric originating in the Seine basin, or ‘rouge à pâte rouge’ from Normandy (Laubenheimer & Marlière 2010: 75). The only other example

Table 13.1 Categories of pottery from the site, shown as percentages of the total weight, number of sherds and EVEs

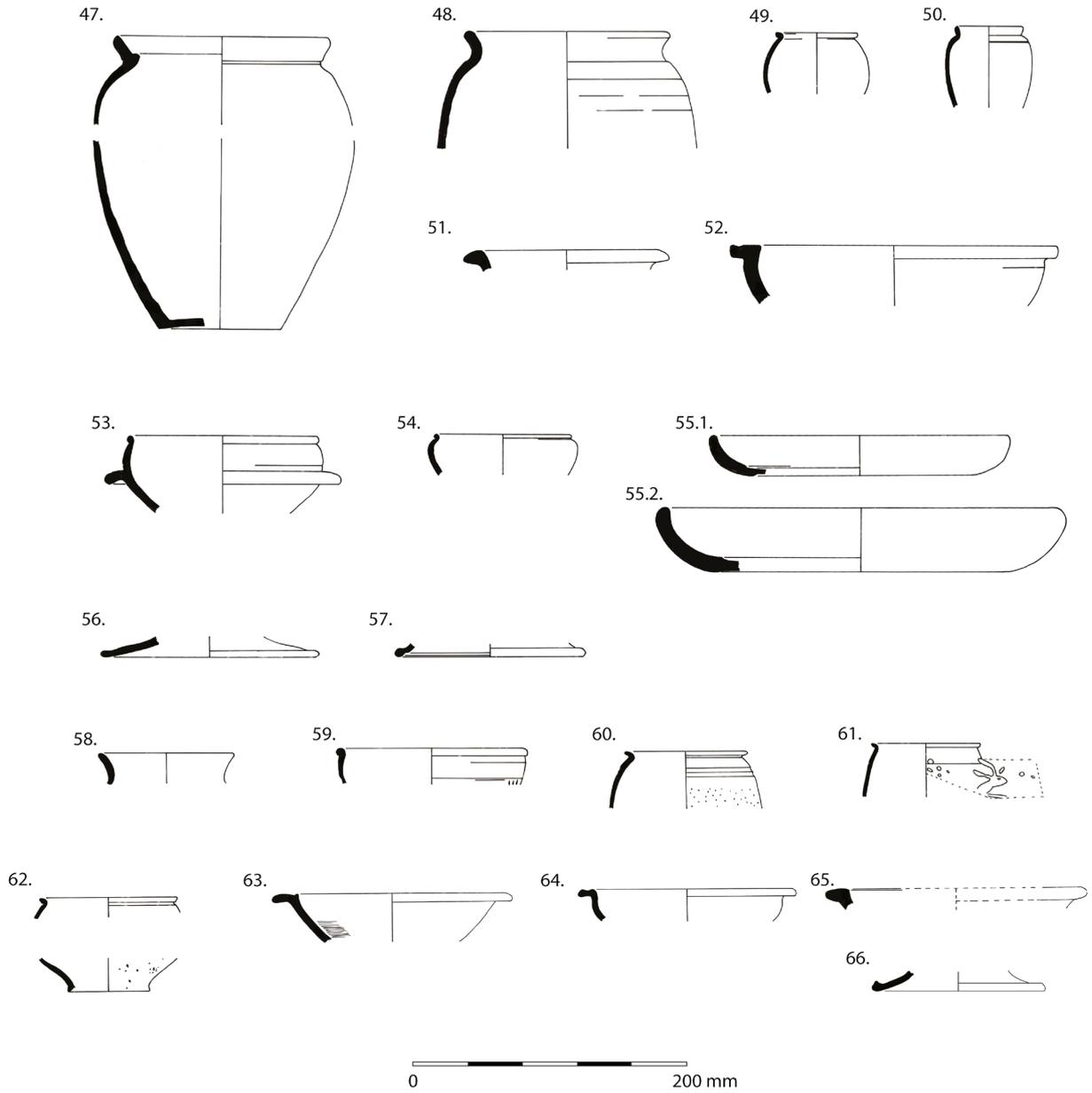
Type	Wt in kg	No. of sherds	EVE %
Amphorae	31.3	9.0	10.9
Samian	1.3	2.6	3.4
Mortaria	12.3	3.6	8.5
Fine wares	0.5	1.8	3.0
Coarse wares	54.7	83.0	74.2
Totals	51.621	3,628	5,429



Illus 13.1 Coarse wares, Types 1.1 to 24



Illus 13.2 Coarse wares and amphorae, Types 25 to 46



Illus 13.3 Coarse and fine wares, Types 47 to 66

Table 13.2 Amphorae by fabric, shown as percentages of the total weight, number of sherds and EVEs

Fabric	NRFRC	Wt in kg	No.	EVE (%)
Vessels				
Dressel 20 (Fabrics 13, 17, 18)	BAT AM	92.3	91.3	100
Dressel 20? grey (Fabric 16)		4.0	3.8	
Gaulish (Fabric 35)	GAL AM	0.6	3.1	
unclassified		3.1	1.7	
Totals		15.974	289	250
Lids				
buff/cream fabric (Fabrics 30, 35)		97.0	97.3	94.2
cream (Fabrics 28, 32)		3.0	2.7	5.8
Totals		0.165	37	344

of this type known in Britain (at least to PB and AC) is from a Neronian or early Flavian context at the St Loye's settlement near Exeter (Bidwell forthcoming; no. 4).

There were also 37 sherds (weight 0.148kg; EVEs 257%) from amphora lids, the majority in a powdery, very fine buff to cream fabric, but with one rim sherd in a sandy cream fabric with red inclusions. A central projection survived on another sherd. All but two of this exceptionally large number of sherds were from the drainage ditches alongside the trackway. The pottery in these ditches was probably washed down from the military *vicus* on higher ground to the west of the trackway, and the lids are likely to have originated from an area where the contents of amphorae were being decanted into small containers.

13.2.1 The stamp (Illus 13.2, no. 37)

Dressel 20, BAT AM. DBO 1, DBR 1 – occupation debris/midden material in northern extension of Area D, east of fort.

► Q·I[or QI[

Incomplete stamp from the estate using the stamp QIA (Callender: 1460). Cf CEIPAC 5644 and 17269 (and CEIPAC 7507 without the dot), c AD 149–61.

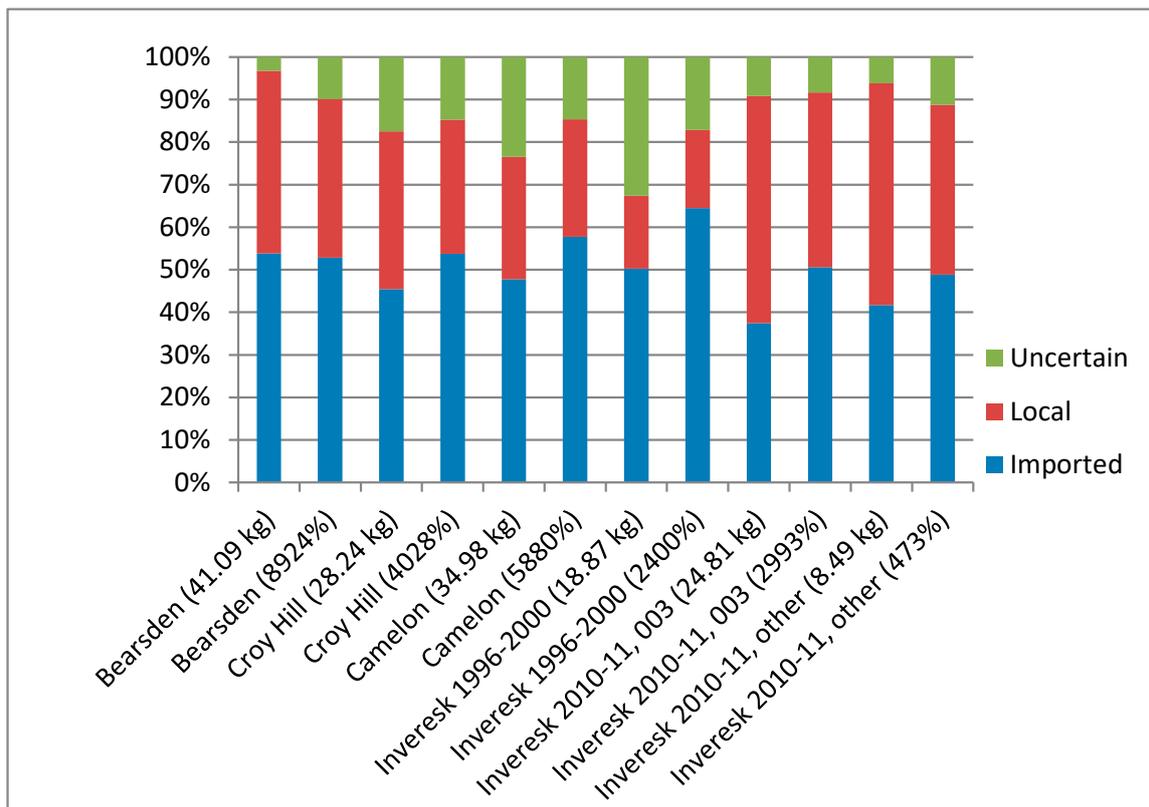
13.3 The coarse and fine wares

In the original report, Hird divided the pottery into 42 fabrics, excluding samian and mortaria but including amphorae (discussed above). Some of these classifications are now known to include pottery from a variety of sources. Fabric 35, for example, includes amphora lids, the base of a North Gaulish amphora, and a platter (Illus 13.3, no. 55.1) in an atypical fabric. Other examples of Fabric 35, however, were shown by Gillings' petrological analysis to be dissimilar (Table 14.1). These revised identifications can only now be made because of the great improvements in knowledge of local pottery on the Antonine Wall and of the imported wares since the original catalogue was compiled. As a consequence, Table 13.3 and Illus 13.4 might well slightly over-represent the local wares.

Another development has been the publication of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998), which provides detailed descriptions and illustrations of most of the widely traded wares in Britain. In this report the common names of these wares and the NRFRC codes are used in preference to Croy Hill fabric numbers, though they are noted in the following fabric list. The fabric numbers are used for the local wares.

Table 13.3 Pottery assemblage by fabric, shown as percentages of the total weight, number of sherds and EVEs

Fabric	NRFC	Wt in kg	No.	EVE%
samian ware		1.9	2.8	3.8
mortaria		17.9	3.9	9.6
Fine wares				
Cologne colour-coated	KOL CC	0.3	1.5	1.1
Colchester colour-coated	COL CC 2	0.1	0.2	0.5
Argonne colour-coated	ARG CC	0.0	0.1	0
unclassified colour-coated		0.1	0.2	0.9
Upchurch fine reduced	UPC FR	0.1	0.2	0.8
Coarse wares				
unclassified flagon fabrics		0.1	0.2	0.4
flagon white ware		0.3	0.4	0.5
continental white ware		1.2	1.7	1.1
Severn Valley ware	SVW OX2	0.6	0.8	1.0
south-east Dorset black burnished 1	DOR BB1	14.8	16.8	15.5
south-western BB1	SOW BB1	2.0	2.1	3.5
BB1, other sources		0.1	0.1	0.1
BB2		25.0	23.8	31.3
highly micaceous grey		0.3	0.4	1.1
Derbyshire	DER CO	1.0	1.5	0.2
highly fired		0.4	0.3	1.1
local oxidised (Fabric 23)		2.3	2.1	1.7
local oxidised (Fabric 35)		6.7	10.8	7.5
local oxidised (Fabric 42)		2.9	3.5	1.4
oxidised (Fabric 27)		0.7	0.7	0.2
oxidised (Fabric 36)		2.8	4.6	2.1
local traditional ware		0.1	0.1	0.0
minor oxidised wares		0.5	0.8	0.5
minor reduced wares		0.3	0.4	0.1
unclassified oxidised wares		0.7	0.5	0.5
unclassified reduced ware		15.9	18.4	13.1
burnt or otherwise unclassified		0.7	1.5	0.1
Totals		35.482	3,302	4,835



Illus 13.4 Percentages of local, imported and unidentified wares at Bearsden, Croy Hill, Camelon and Inveresk. Sources as in the main text, except for Inveresk 1996–2000, for which see Dore 2004: tables 41–4. The percentage of local wares at Camelon might be over-estimated because of the inclusion of undiagnostic Flavian sherds occurring residually in early Antonine contexts. Drawn by Paul Bidwell

13.3.1. Fine wares

Cologne (KOL CC; Fabric 39): Illus 13.3, no. 60.

Colchester colour-coated? (COL CC 2; Fabrics 25, 40): Illus 13.2, no. 43 and 13.3, no. 62.

Upchurch fine reduced (UPC FR; Fabrics 11, 37): Illus 13.2, no. 32 and 13.3, no. 58.

Unclassified colour-coated ware: Illus 13.3, no. 61.

13.3.2 Coarse wares (not local)

Flagon fabric (29): slightly micaceous fine white pipeclay fabric with occasional fine soft red inclusions (Illus 13.2, no. 45).

North Gaulish white (26): Cream/white fabric, darker to the exterior so section is white fading into black. Patchy black or brown exterior (Illus 13.2, no. 44).

Severn Valley ware (SVW OX2; Fabric 3): Illus 13.1, no. 24.

South-east Dorset black burnished ware 1 (DOR BB1; Fabric 1): LH, commenting on the BB1 in general, stated that ‘there were 43 cooking

pot rims as compared with 20 rim fragments of all the other forms taken together. Many of the cooking pot rims had the wavy line decoration on the neck, a feature which declined as the 2nd century wore on. As seems to be usual on the Antonine Wall there was a great predominance of dishes over bowls – 17 dishes to one bowl’ (Illus 13.1, nos 1.1, 1.2, 3, 5–8, 10–12).

South-western black burnished ware 1 (SOW BB1; not distinguished from Fabric 1): Vessels in this fabric, now known to have been made on the border of south-east Devon (Bidwell 2021: 312–13, fig 12.1), are easily distinguishable from BB1 from south-east Dorset. They are thinly distributed in northern Britain from the Hadrianic period until the early 3rd century (Illus 13.1, nos 2, 4, 9).

Other BB1 (Fabric 1a): LH suggested Rossington Bridge as a source (Illus 13.2, no. 31).

BB2 (mostly or all COL BB2; Fabric 2): North Kent has been suggested as the source of some early

Antonine BB2 in Scotland, but the weight of the evidence favours Colchester as its main source at this period (Bidwell & Croom 2018: 201). LH commented: ‘The chamfered dish Type 21 was the commonest vessel form on the site with 41 rim fragments. All the examples except one had lattice decoration, the exception having diagonal line decoration. There were seven examples of the dish as no. 23. Both the common rim forms of BB2 cooking pots were present in roughly equal numbers. There were 18 examples of the everted-rim cooking pot (Gillam 1970: Type 137), as no. 13, and 23 examples of the cavetto rim cooking pot (ibid: Type 139), as no. 14. There seems to be no chronological significance to the different rim forms, which seem to have been in use contemporaneously. Bowls with triangular rims, as no. 17, were also fairly common, with 16 examples. Although there were comparatively more bowls in BB2 than in BB1 they were still well outnumbered by dishes (Illus 13.1, nos 13–23).’

Highly micaceous grey ware (Fabric 11): This category includes miscellaneous grey wares, including an example in fine sandy grey fabric with abundant fine silver mica, probably an East Anglian product (Illus 13.2, no. 30).

Derbyshire ware (DER CO; Fabric 31): Two or three examples of Derbyshire ware are known in Scotland (Tyers 1996: fig 239). As well as this example, there is a cooking pot with lid-seated rim from Balmuildy (Miller 1922: pl XLV, no. 29, ‘hard, gritty red’) (LH) and one with a slightly cupped rim from Carpow (Birley & Dodds 1962: fig 8, no. 6 ‘very hard, red fabric with grey pimply surface’). It is of note that all three are red or orange in colour. The ware was produced from the mid-2nd century but does not appear on Hadrian’s Wall until the 3rd century (Illus 13.3, no. 47).

13.3.3 Local wares

The local wares are discussed in a following section. The list below reproduces Hird’s original classification with some further comments. Fabrics 23, 35 and 42 were sampled by Gillings (14, below), and account is taken of his fabric descriptions.

Fabric 23 (oxidised): A number of fine-textured,

self-coloured orange fabrics, characterised by common shale inclusions up to 1mm across and rare sandstone and chert inclusions. There are silt-rich variations with very fine quartz inclusions and those with sand-grade quartz; some also have fine red inclusions (Illus 13.2, nos 40–2). Unillustrated sherds include a fragment from the base of a cheese press (DAA – topsoil over land divisions, Area D).

Fabric 35 (oxidised): Fine sand/silty buff or pinkish fabrics, with common shale inclusions up to 1mm across, and slightly paler surfaces (Illus 13.3, nos 48–54, 55.2, 56–7).

Fabric 42 (oxidised): Fine pale orange to cream fabric with low silt and quartz content, and soapy feel. Occasional fine red inclusions. Can have yellowish-pink or dark cream surfaces. It includes a bowl or platter base sherd with a poorly finished foot ring and individual lines still visible in burnished areas (not illustrated, LAH 4 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway). Mortarium Fabric 6 (see 12.2) and the face mask (10.2) have a similar soapy feel. For a bowl in Fabric 42, see Illus 13.3, no. 64.

Fabric 36 (oxidised): Hard, rough-textured orange fabric with abundant sand inclusions. Surviving rims come from cooking pots. None illustrated.

Fabric 27 (oxidised): Fairly hard, gritty, pinkish-buff fabric with blue-grey core. The single rim comes from a cooking pot. None illustrated.

Miscellaneous oxidised wares (Fabrics 6, 9, 12, 14, 22, 24, 27 and 38, and sherds included in Fabric 42): Fabrics with few distinguishing features which are probably of local manufacture. (Illus 13.3, nos 59 and 63). Unillustrated sherds include a fragment from the twisted, rope-like handle of a large flagon (LBW 2 – drainage/road ditch junction, south-west of the fort); this is a rare type, with a few parallels in southern Britain, as for example at Colchester (Symonds & Wade 1999: fig 6.28, no. 825).

Highly fired ware (included in Fabrics 15 and 35): These highly fired fabrics with quartz inclusions and a pimply surface are reminiscent of Derbyshire ware but do not represent types produced by the industry. Local sources are likely (Illus 13.2, no. 36 and 13.3, no. 55.1).

Miscellaneous grey wares (Fabrics 11 and 20–1): (Illus 13.2, nos 25–30, 32–5 and 39).

13.4 Catalogue (Illus 13.1–13.3)

The entries include vessel type, fabric (including the Hird fabric number where relevant or the NRFRC classification), petrological sample number where relevant (see Table 14.1) and the context code/descriptor.

► 1.1. Cooking pot

DOR BB1, Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: Type 15. LBD 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► 1.2. Cooking pot

DOR BB1, Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: Type 16. BBB – topsoil over west side of pre-fort enclosure.

► 1.3. Cooking pot

DOR BB1, Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: Type 17. LBM 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► 2. Cooking pot

Very faint trace of wavy line decoration on the rim. SOW BB1, Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: Type 26. LCQ 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► 3. Cooking pot with wavy line decoration on the rim

DOR BB1, Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: Type 16. LAK 4 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► 4. Jar with countersunk lug handles

Some sooting on exterior. DOR BB1, Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: Type 24. GAB – lower fill of bypass road drainage ditch in quarry trench.

► 5. Bead-rimmed cooking pot, partially burnt; exact rim diameter uncertain

DOR BB1, Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: Types 4/5. LAB/LAB 4 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► 6. Beaker, probably with handle

Smooth burnish, fine fabric. Black deposits on exterior. SOW BB1, Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: Type 11. QAA – topsoil over fortlet.

► 7. Small jar or beaker

DOR BB1. CCK – drainage ditch north side of bypass road.

► 8. Flat-rimmed bowl

DOR BB1. CCN 3 – pre-fort enclosure ditch, east side, and adjacent topsoil.

► 9. Bead-rimmed bowl or dish, highly burnished

SOW BB1. CCT – bypass road drainage ditch, east of pre-fort enclosure.

► 10. Dish with lightly incised groove creating a small beaded rim

DOR BB1. BBB – topsoil over west side of pre-fort enclosure.

► 11. Flat-rimmed dish

DOR BB1. GAE – shallow linear gully forming land division east of fort.

► 12. Flat-rimmed bowl or dish

DOR BB1. LAH 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► 13. Everted-rim cooking pot

BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 5.1. LBD 2 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► 14. Everted-rim cooking pot

BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 5.1. LBB 2 – recut drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► 15. ‘Neckless’ cooking pot

Patches of black residue on exterior. BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 9. LBM 2 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► 16. ‘Neckless’ cooking pot

Most of the original surface has been lost, apart from the slip round the rim. BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 9. LBR 2 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► 17. Triangular-rimmed bowl

BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 14. CCN – pre-fort enclosure ditch.

► 18. Plain-rimmed bowl with two rows of wavy line decoration

BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Types 12.1/12.3.
LBS – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **19. Plain-rimmed bowl with groove**

BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 12.2. LBR 2 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **20. Plain-rimmed bowl with two grooves**

BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 12.2 variant.
LBK 1 – recutting of drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **21. Triangular-rimmed dish with very fine burnishing**

BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 17.1. LAL 1 – early linear gully in *vicus*.

► **21.1. Triangular-rimmed dish**

BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 17.1. CAC 1 – bypass road drainage ditch, east of pre-fort enclosure.

► **22. Dish with curled-under rim**

BB2. EBY – drainage gully forming part of land divisions, south-east of fort.

► **23. Plain-rimmed dish**

BB2, Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 13.1. LBO 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **24. Storage jar in Severn Valley ware**

SVW OX 2. Webster 1977: fig 11, 1, Type 3 (LC).
LAL 2/LAH 2 – early linear gully and drainage ditch on east side of trackway in *vicus*.

► **25. Cooking pot (Fabric 11)**

Highly fired light grey highly micaceous fabric with pale grey core. Occasional black inclusions up to 1mm, sometimes leaving smeared lines within the clay on the surface.

LBK 1, LBK 5, LBV 1, LCQ 1, LCR 1 – early shallow gully and drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **26. Cooking pot with wavy line decoration on rim, imitating BB1 decoration (Fabric 11)**

Slightly gritty mid-grey fabric, burnished on shoulder and exterior of rim and halfway down interior of rim. Some silver mica plates and rounded grey inclusions.

LBD 4 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **27. Jar in sandy, very pale grey fabric, with the remains of dark grey surfaces, giving a mottled appearance (Fabric 11)**

Occasional soft black inclusions up to 1mm. Some burning on interior of rim.

LAB 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **28. Jar in sandy mid-grey fabric with darker surfaces and with heavy sooting on the exterior (Fabric 11)**

Burnished on body, and both exterior and interior of rim.

LCK 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **29. Narrow-mouthed jar in soft, light grey slightly gritty fabric, slightly micaceous, with slightly darker surfaces (Fabric 11)**

LAK 2, LAK 3 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **30. Small jar or cooking pot with everted rim (Fabric 11, but perhaps an East Anglian product)**

Fine hard sandy mid-grey fabric with occasional very fine mica and white inclusions.

CCT, CCY 1 – bypass road drainage ditch east of pre-fort enclosure and associated silt build-up.

► **31. Small jar (Fabric 1a)**

Grey BB1, burnt near rim, most of original surface lost.

CCT – bypass road drainage ditch east of pre-fort enclosure.

► **32. Poppy-head beaker in fine-textured, smooth, mid-grey fabric with very light grey core; common soft black inclusions up to 2mm across**

This beaker and similar sherds from other contexts were included in Fabric 11 and were almost certainly from south-east England; their fabric is not typical of Upchurch, Kent (UPC FR), commonly a source of these beakers, and they are probably from elsewhere, perhaps Highgate Wood (HGW RE C). Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 4.1. LAK, LBM 2 – drainage ditches in *vicus*, east and west sides of trackway.

Cf no. 58.

► **33. Flat-rimmed bowl in sandy, soft gritty grey fabric, and occasional pebble up to 5mm (Fabric 11). CCR – surface of bypass road, south of pre-fort enclosure**

Cf no. 42 in oxidised ware.

► **34. Segmental bowl with flanged rim in fine hard micaceous grey fabric (Fabric 11)**

Burnished in bands on the interior. Black deposits on both exterior and interior. Almost 50% of the vessel survives.

LAA, LAK 5, LBD 1, LBD 2, LBD 3, LBD 6, – drainage ditches in *vicus*, east and west side of trackway, and overlying topsoil.

Cf Bar Hill: Robertson et al 1975: fig 53, no. 18.

► **35. Lid in sandy, mid-grey fabric with patchy remains of a darker surface on exterior (Fabric 11)**

Occasional soft black inclusions. Burnt on interior of rim, and some sooting.

LCS 3 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **36. Lid-seated jar (Fabric 15)**

Hard gritty grey fabric with pimply surface, slight oxidised tinge to the interior of the rim.

LAA – topsoil over *vicus*, Area L.

► **37. Dressel 20 amphora with stamp (see 13.2 above)**

BAT AM. DBO 1, DBR 1 – occupation debris/midden material in northern extension of Area D, east of fort.

► **38. Dressel 20 amphora**

BAT AM. LAB – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **39. Reeded-rimmed bowl with lattice decoration (Fabric 21)**

The rim has two shallow grooves with a wavy line between them. Wipe marks on interior, slightly faceted exterior. Hard, smooth grey fabric with a few small opaque white, hard black and quartz inclusions; mid-grey core, very thin white margins, pale grey interior surface, exterior surface black near base but with oxidised rim.

One other vessel, a flat-rimmed bowl, was found in this fabric.

LCT 3 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

Cf Miller 1928: pl XXII, no. 20 (LH).

► **40. Bowl with an in-turned rim**

There is a deep groove around the circumference of the rim which cuts closely spaced parallel lines cut across its width. Possibly a tazza, the treatment of the rim perhaps imitating the frilling typical of such vessels.

Fabric 23 (sample no. 5, core group): hard gritty pale orange fabric, with quartz inclusions, with patchy dark orange exterior surface.

LBL 1 – narrow drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **41. Beaker with beaded rim and groove on shoulder**

Fabric 23 (sample no. 6): fine, light orange fabric with fine red inclusions.

LAL 1 – early linear gully in *vicus*.

Cf Bar Hill: Robertson et al 1975: fig 53, no. 9.

► **42. Flat-rimmed bowl, probably a carinated form**

Fabric 23 (sample no. 4): soft orange fabric, paler on exterior, with quartz but no red inclusions.

LBB 1 – recut drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

Cf no. 33 in grey ware.

► **43. Rough-cast beaker**

Possibly COL CC 2 (Fabric 25).

LBB 1 – recut drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **44. Jar with grooved rim**

Soft cream fabric with plentiful fine quartz inclusions and common soft red inclusions up to 1mm, and rare soft opaque white and shiny black inclusions (Fabric 26). North Gaulish white ware.

DBL – occupation debris/midden material in northern extension of Area D.

Cf Bearsden: Bidwell & Croom 2016a: illus 7.8, no. 219; Mumrills: Gillam 1961: fig 15, no. 91.

Examples from other sites in north-east England and Antonine Scotland are listed in the report on the coarse wares from Bearsden (Bidwell & Croom 2016a: no. 219), to which can be added a jar from Catterick (Bell & Evans 2002: fig 197, J5.1, CD,

p265, from an apparently Hadrianic context). With the possible exception of the example from Catterick, these jars come from contexts ranging in date from the early Antonine period to the earlier 3rd century.

► **45. Flagon with grooved rim**

White ware (Fabric 29), possibly a North Gaulish import.

DAT 1 – occupation debris/midden material in northern extension of Area D east of fort.

Cf Balmuildy: Miller 1922: pl XLIII, 1, ‘white clay with a cream slip’ (Hird).

► **46. Amphora lid with plain rim**

Soft cream/buff fabric (Fabric 30). LBL 1 – narrow drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

See discussion in 13.2, above.

► **47. Cooking pot**

Highly fired oxidised fabric with pale grey core, slightly patchy brown exterior especially near base; some sooting.

Derbyshire ware (DER CO). CCA 1 – east side of pre-fort enclosure ditch.

► **48. Cooking pot with everted rim**

Fabric 35.

LAH 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **49. Beaker**

Fabric 35.

LBR 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **50. Beaker**

Fabric 35. Cf no. 41.

LBL 2 – narrow drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **51. Rounded rim bowl or dish**

Fabric 35.

CCR – surface of bypass road, south of pre-fort enclosure.

► **52. Reeded-rimmed bowl**

Fabric 35.

LBR 1, QAR – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway, and ditch of fortlet.

Cf Bar Hill: Robertson et al 1975: fig 53, no. 21.

► **53. Flanged hemispherical bowl, imitating samian form 38**

Fabric 35.

LBT – lower section of drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **54. ‘Tulip-bowl’**

This vessel has previously been published by Swan (1999: 420, 465, illus 2, no. 6 and illus 11), who described it as ‘a form well attested in Mauretania’, a small, shallow bowl with a foot ring; only the upper part of the Croy Hill vessel survives.

Fabric 35 (sample no. 1, core group).

LBT – lower section of drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **55.1. Curved wall platter**

Very highly fired red fabric with large translucent quartz inclusions up to 2mm, with brown pimpled surfaces (Fabric 35, but atypical). The apparent groove on the interior is more like a drag mark and does not look intentional.

The platter was published by Swan (1999: illus 10, nos 4 and 62) alongside another from Old Kilpatrick with a very similar profile.

LBT – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **55.2. Curved wall platter**

Slightly sandy pale orange fabric, with fine soft red and opaque white inclusions (Fabric 35; sample no. 9, core group).

LBL 1 – narrow drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **56. Lid with plain rim**

Fabric 35.

LDB 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **57. Lid with rounded rim and groove on interior**

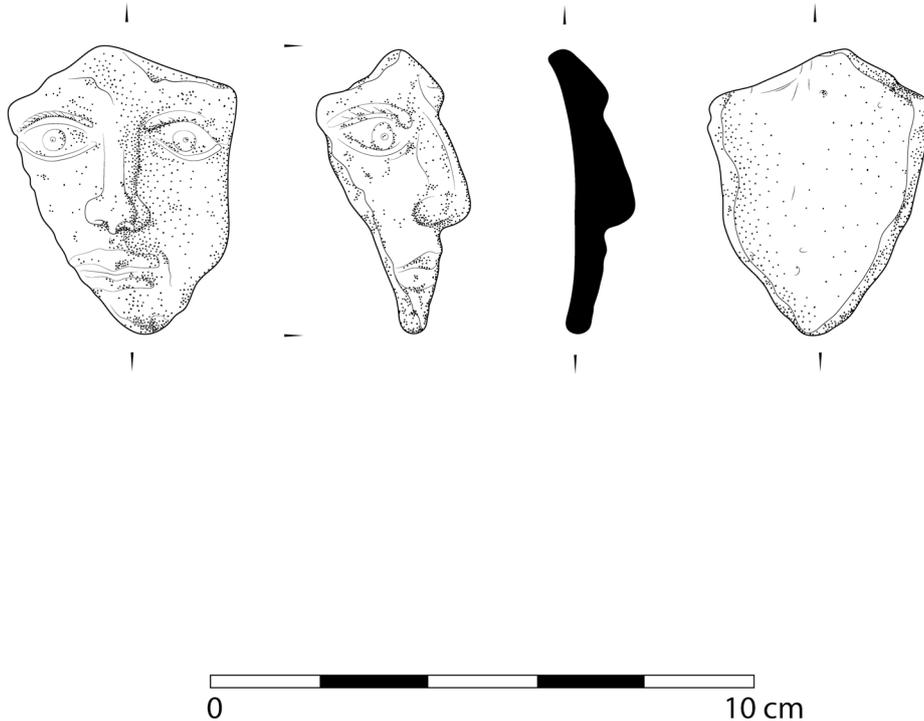
Fabric 35.

LBK 1 – recut drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **58. Poppy-head beaker**

Fabric 37, originally identified as Parisian ware, but probably Upchurch (UPC FR), Bidwell & Croom 2018: Type 4.1.

LAB – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway. Cf no. 32.



Illus 13.5 Head pot sherd

► **59. Beaded-rimmed bowl, imitation of samian Form 37**

Sandy mid-orange fabric with grey core (Fabric 38). Possible rouletted decoration on body. LAH 4 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **60. Rough-cast beaker**

Cologne ware, KOL CC (Fabric 39). LCQ 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **61. ‘Hunt’ cup beaker**

Soft, slightly soapy cream fabric with red colour coat (Fabric 35, but apparently not Cologne ware). LBD 6 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **62. Rough-cast beaker**

COL CC 2 (Fabric 40). LBD 1, LBO 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, west side of trackway.

► **63. Segmental bowl**

Fine orange fabric, with slightly darker exterior with patchy burnishing and fine rilling on the interior. Fabric 42 (sample no. 7, outlier). LAH 1 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway. Cf no. 34.



Illus 13.6 Head pot sherd (© Hunterian Museum)

► **64. Flat-rimmed bowl with deep groove in top of rim**

Dark cream fabric with few visible inclusions but rare red inclusions up to 3mm across. Fabric 42 (sample no. 8, core group). This vessel was published by Swan (1999: 465, illus 2, no. 5), citing North African parallels. QAA: topsoil over fortlet.

► **65. Rounded rim bowl**

Fabric 42.

QAA: topsoil over fortlet.

► **66. Lid with triangular rim**

Fabric 42.

LBR 2 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

► **67. Head pot in fine mid-orange fabric with the remains of a darker burnished exterior surface (Illus 13.5; 13.6)**

Inclusions consist of occasional rounded colourless quartz up to 3mm across that break through the surface, brittle red inclusions up to 2mm and rare soft white pieces up to 1.5mm.

The vessel is likely to be a York product related to Ebor ware (Monaghan 1997: 916). The sherd as it survives suggests a vessel diameter of only about 60mm, and although the process of sculpting deforms the vessels, which can often end up oval (cf Swan & Monaghan 1993: fig 1, no. 5), its size shows it comes from a beaker-sized vessel.

The face is very finely sculpted by hand with tool marks still visible in places, especially round the nose. The interior surface also has some accidental incised lines in the area of the forehead. The brow ridges are modelled with a depression between the eyebrows, which are shown as diagonal incised lines. The eyes have an incised iris and pupil and the eyelashes are raised ribs with diagonal incised lines. The nostrils are depicted but there is no obvious philtrum. Elements such as the beaked upper lip, the nostrils, incised eyebrows and the dimple between them, and the use of burnishing, can be paralleled on York examples (Monaghan 1997: table 160, fig 344; Swan & Monaghan 1993: 22–3). For full discussion of its significance, see 13.5.4, below. LBF 1 – southern section of drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.

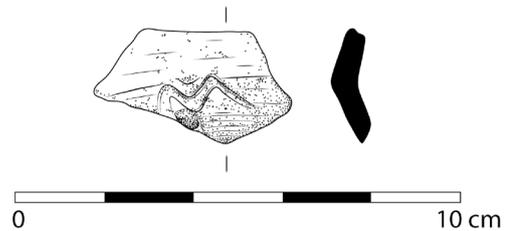
► **68. Cooking pot**

Fabric 11. Sandy mid-grey fabric, with some rounded colourless quartz, plus occasional rounded dark grey inclusions up to 2mm, ill-sorted angular black inclusions up to 3mm, and very small soft white inclusions apart from one fragment 9mm across. This vessel was used as a container for a cremation; the whole of the lower part of the vessel survives, but it has lost its shoulder and rim (Illus

5.21). EAN – cremation within land divisions, south-east of fort.

13.4.1 Graffito (Illus 13.7)

Oxidised body sherd reading ‘.]M’. LAH 3 – drainage ditch in *vicus*, east side of trackway.



Illus 13.7 Graffito

13.5 Discussion

13.5.1 Comparison of quantifications

13.5.1.1 Introduction

John Gillam quantified the coarse wares from the fort at Mumrills by estimating their minimum number (1961). He was ahead of his time, and many years elapsed before quantification came into general use in the publication of pottery in Roman Britain. In common with the rest of Britain, practice in studying Roman pottery in Scotland varies, but there are now a useful series of quantified assemblages from intra- and extra-mural sites at forts on the Antonine Wall and in its hinterland. Comparisons of assemblages from different sites can be hindered by the different methods of quantification and levels of detail. One particular difficulty has been the tendency to confine quantification to the coarse wares, which means that no estimate can be made of the relative occurrences of the other wares. The comprehensive approach adopted at Croy Hill has had one unexpected result: samian ware appears to be scarce and, as explained below, was similarly scarce at Bearsden. Other sites which have been studied comprehensively are Inveresk, Camelon and Cramond, but only Inveresk is exclusively early Antonine in date and directly comparable with Bearsden and Croy Hill. The presence of Flavian pottery at Camelon and of Severan and later pottery at Cramond can obscure some aspects of their supply in the early Antonine

period. For example, at Cramond it is often not possible to distinguish between black burnished ware sherds of early Antonine and Severan date.

Despite these difficulties, it is now possible to make detailed comparisons between some assemblages from early Antonine Scotland, but first an important question must be asked. How reliable are these sorts of figures as a valid representation of the overall pottery supply to a site? In their assessment of methods used to quantify Romano-British coarse wares, especially BB1, Allen & Fulford preferred EVEs or similar calculations based on rim diameters (1996: 226–36). When comparisons include other classes of pottery, such as amphorae and samian ware, weights also need to be considered: for example, it is quite possible for amphorae to be well represented in a group by body sherds without any rims. Whatever method is used for quantification, how much pottery is then needed to provide a reliable sample? An assemblage of, say, some 50kg would surely provide better evidence than a handful of sherds, but what is the minimum amount that is required? All that can be said is that comparisons suggest models for pottery supply; the larger the sample, the more reliable the model.

13.5.1.2 Samian ware

At 2nd-century military sites in northern England (intra- and extra-mural), Willis has recorded percentages of 6.6–21.4 by weight and 9.4–30.0 by EVEs for samian as a proportion of all the pottery excluding amphorae (2011: tables 1–2). The equivalent figures for Croy Hill are 1.9% and 3.8%. No data from the Antonine Wall were available to Willis, but a subsequent publication showed that, at 4.6% by weight and 4.7% by sherd numbers, samian was also scarce in the fort at Bearsden (Bidwell & Croom 2016a: 108, table 7.1). The figures for Camelon and Inveresk are very different: 13.7% by weight and 16.3% by EVEs from Camelon (Bidwell & Croom forthcoming), and from two separate series of contexts at Inveresk, 17.0% and 27.6% by weight and 16.2% and 36.9% by sherd count (all contexts excluding 003 and Context 003: Croom & Bidwell 2020). These variations occur in assemblages of large size and can be regarded as significant. It seems that samian ware was more readily available at the eastern end of the Antonine Wall, and especially

further east along the coast at Inveresk. Products from Central Gaul, the main source of samian ware in the early Antonine period, presumably reached eastern Scotland directly from the mouth of the Rhine or via London. The lesser amounts of the ware from the two forts in the central and western sectors are probably further signs of difficulties in supplying early Antonine Scotland (Bidwell 2020).

13.5.1.3 Coarse wares

The comparative amounts of imported coarse wares (that is, from beyond Scotland and predominantly from southern England) and of local products at Croy Hill, Bearsden, Camelon and Inveresk are much less variable than the occurrences of samian ware (Illus 13.4). At Croy Hill, as at the other sites, about half of the coarse wares are imports. The true figure at all these sites is likely to be a little higher, because the quantities shown as uncertain probably include some imported and oxidised wares, the remainder being local products. Almost all the imported wares were BB1, mainly shipped north by the west-coast route, and BB2, which travelled up the east coast. At Croy Hill the ratio of BB1 to BB2 is 1:1.47 by weight and 1:1.65 by EVEs. At Bearsden BB1 is much commoner, with ratios to BB2 of 1:1.07 by weight and 1:0.71 by EVEs. The suppliers of BB1 towards the western end of the Antonine Wall benefited from lower transport costs across country, as Gillam and Greene have demonstrated (1981: 9–24).

13.5.1.4 Mortaria and amphorae

At Croy Hill the mortaria comprise 17.9% by weight and 9.6% by EVEs. The equivalent figures from two series of contexts at Inveresk are 27.66% and 21.85% by weight and 12.87% by EVEs for the first series (Croom & Bidwell 2020; EVEs were not counted for the second series); at Bearsden the figure is 30.49% by weight and 14.83% by EVEs (Bidwell & Croom 2016a: 108, table 7.1; Bidwell & Croom 2016b: 176, table 7.18, but excluding samian as well as amphorae). These figures indicate that mortaria are somewhat scarcer at Croy Hill than at Inveresk and Bearsden. The high figure at Bearsden is probably explained by a dump of waste in the *intervallum* area from the kiln of Sarrus, the mortarium potter (Bidwell & Croom 2016b: 177).

The figure for amphorae at Croy Hill is 31.3% by weight and 10.9% by EVEs, figures which are similar to the large group from Context 003 at Inveresk (29.67% by weight and 5.27% by EVEs: Croom & Bidwell 2020). There were apparently many more amphorae from Bearsden, where they comprised 70.30% of the pottery by weight (Bidwell & Croom 2016a: 108, table 7.1; EVEs were not recorded). No explanation can be offered for this exceptional number.

13.5.2 Pottery usage

Table 13.4 compares the range and frequency of forms at Croy Hill, Inveresk (Context 003) and Bearsden. Samian vessels are not included in the figures for Croy Hill and Bearsden, but the quantities are so small that they would be unlikely to have altered significantly the overall picture of pottery usage. To begin with the commonest forms, there are roughly equal quantities of cooking pots/jars and bowls/dishes at Croy Hill and Bearsden. Inveresk has more than three times more of the

latter than the former, a pattern similar to three 2nd-century assemblages from within the forts of the Hadrian's Wall system at Carlisle, Wallsend and South Shields (Bidwell & Croom 2016b: table 7.20). The small numbers of cooking pots/jars from these forts might well be accounted for by the preparation of food in restricted areas, probably large ovens in the *intervallum* areas, and a predominance of vessels for serving food in the barracks, which occupied much of the space within the forts. Indeed, most of the pottery in these assemblages came from the internal buildings and their immediate vicinity (the Wallsend and South Shields pottery was largely from alley deposits between barracks). The connection between large numbers of bowls/dishes and consumption rather than preparation of food is supported by the presence of very many more flagons (24.1% by EVEs at Wallsend), used for serving liquids, than in the Scottish assemblages and the relatively small number of mortaria (5.2–6.2%).

The pottery from Croy Hill therefore seems likely

Table 13.4 Pottery assemblages by form compared by percentages of EVEs, excluding samian at Croy Hill and Bearsden (EVEs were not available) and amphorae at all three sites. A tick records the presence of a type but with no measurable rim; a cross denotes the absence of a type. Inveresk, Context 003: Croom & Bidwell 2020; Bearsden: Bidwell & Croom 2016b, table 7.19. 'Other' at Bearsden comprises triple vases and a miniature vessel or crucible

Vessel form	Croy Hill	Inveresk Context 003	Bearsden
Flagon	1.4	4.1	2.8
Drinking vessel	9.7	7.6	3.2
Small jar	3.1	0.2	1.8
Bowl/dish	33.3	55.2	33.1
Cooking pot/jar	37.9	16.2	36.3
Storage jar	2.0	2.2	4.1
Mortarium	9.7	12.8	14.9
Lid	2.0	0.7	1.7
Cheese press	✓	0.3	X
Tazza	0.9	0.6	X
Unguentarium	✓	X	X
Brazier	X	X	0.4
Costrel	X	X	0.7
Other	X	X	0.9
Total EVEs %	4,783	5,987	10,270

to have been from an area of domestic occupation outside the fort where food was prepared and consumed in the same place. Bearsden, where the pottery came from inside the fort and annexe, had roughly equal numbers of cooking pots/jars and bowls/dishes. Its assemblage thus differs from those at the Hadrian's Wall forts, and, as Breeze (2016: 350) has noted, from the expectation that much of the cooking in forts took place in ovens in the *intervallum* area and that the food was then consumed in the barracks. Breeze suggested that at least part of the explanation for preparation of food in the internal buildings at Bearsden was the presence of pottery of North African style which was used with braziers. The Inveresk assemblage, from a midden (Context 003) in the military *vicus*, with its small number of cooking pots/jars, included an exceptionally large number of samian vessels (36.78% by EVEs) and was clearly associated with the consumption rather than the preparation of food. Also present in the assemblage was a large number of mortaria, vessels that sometimes appeared on the table; that is at least the implication of their inclusion in the range of forms made in samian ware.

13.5.3 The pottery probably made at Croy Hill

The report by Hartley (12.2.2 and 12.4, above) briefly summarises the evidence for the production of mortaria at forts on the Antonine Wall and makes a strong case for Croy Hill as the site of one of these kilns. In addition to these specialised manufactures, there was widespread production of other coarse wares: Swan listed eight forts on the Wall as well as Inveresk, far beyond the eastern end of the Wall, where there were almost certainly kilns (1999: 402). Swan included Croy Hill, though she questioned the identification of the possible kiln (5.3, above). She also mentioned Gillings' work on the petrology of the oxidised coarse wares from the site (14, below), which was intended to assess whether these fabrics, originally identified by LH as perhaps of local origin, formed a coherent group and could be shown to have been made at Croy Hill. The results were equivocal, although about half the samples 'formed a core group that was chemically and petrologically distinct from the wares produced at other sites in the Wall zone and identical to a small sample of daub

fragments from the site' (14.7, below).

Visual classification of coarse wares which have no particularly distinctive inclusions is always difficult, but if the core group defined by petrology is representative, about half of all the oxidised wares are likely to have been from the same source. One possibility that Gillings could exclude (14.6, below) was that any of the samples were from the fort at Bar Hill, only 2.5km to the west of Croy Hill, where the fabrics included clay pellets which were not present in any of the Croy Hill samples. Hartley has identified a mortarium type (12.3.4, above) which occurs only at Croy Hill and was thus almost certainly made at the site. It is equally probable that the oxidised wares of the core group were local products, perhaps fired in the same kiln as the mortaria. The grey wares at Croy Hill were not sampled, but some of their types are duplicated in the oxidised wares and will have been from the same source (cf 13.4 above, nos 33 and 39, also 34 and 63).

For antecedents to the Croy Hill mortaria, Hartley looked beyond Britain but was not able to specify the source of the type. There are no parallels amongst the mortaria at Bar Hill, but some significant resemblances between the other coarse wares at the two forts are recorded in the catalogue above (beakers, 13.4, nos 41 and 50; bowls, 13.4, nos 34, 52 and 63). More generally, the numbers of bowls with plain, reeded or mortarium-like rims in grey and oxidised wares are notable at both forts. By the early Antonine period imitations of BB1 bowls were becoming common in many parts of Britain, eclipsing the other types in oxidised and grey wares; the latest date of production that Gillam proposed for the latter was AD 130 (1970: Types 214–17). There is only one example of a bowl imitating BB1 at Croy Hill (above, 13.4, no. 39), though they are much commoner at Bar Hill (Robertson et al 1975: fig 54, nos 5–7, and at least 15 other examples). The large number of bowls not imitating BB1 at the two forts goes against a general trend in Britain. In the Rhineland such bowls were current in the 2nd and early 3rd centuries (Gose 1950: table 49, nos 502–3), and it is perhaps there or in Gallia Belgica, with its similar ceramic traditions, that we should seek the origins of one or more potters working at Croy Hill and Bar Hill.

The other strand of influence in the Croy Hill pottery is the North African tradition, which by the early Antonine period was widespread in all the parts of the Empire bordering the western Mediterranean. The local oxidised ware included at least five cooking dishes (as Illus 13.3, no. 55.2) and a small vessel of ‘tulip-bowl’ profile (Swan 1999: 456, illus 2, no. 6, cf illus 11, nos 111–13). Swan also mentioned beakers in the same tradition (presumably nos 41 and 50), but without citing any parallels; the type might well have another origin. Up to eight cooking dishes in other fabrics, oxidised and reduced, were also listed by Swan; not all are readily identifiable in the database, and some might have been from the earlier excavations. ‘Some [had] a small flange at the wall/base junction and others ... under-rilling; most were probably local to the Antonine Wall in general.’ In the Croy Hill pottery database, all the dishes described by Swan as of local or more distant origin are grouped in Fabrics 35 and 42, both of which include samples in Gillings’ core group, which is regarded here as local. One dish (13.4, no. 55.1, above) specified by Swan (1999: 465, illus 2, no. 4) as ‘Croy oxidised ware’ is in a fabric different from those that are now recognised as local. This is another illustration of the difficulties that occur in the visual identification of some coarse ware fabrics, but this misattribution by no means detracts from Swan’s more important observation that the North African-style pottery at Croy Hill includes vessels not only made on the spot but also from further afield.

Swan connected pottery in this style with the presence of North African soldiers and potters who had been sent to Scotland in the aftermath of the Mauretanian war (1999). They were thought to have arrived with the return of units sent from Britain to take part in the war. Participation of units from Britain was a conjecture when Swan published her study, but two serving in Mauretania in AD 152 or 153 are named in a diploma that was discovered subsequently (Eck et al 2016).²¹ One is *cohors I Baetasiorum*, which is attested at both Bar Hill (*RIB* I: 2169–70) and Old Kilpatrick (*RIB* I: 3509) on the Antonine Wall; the other, *cohors I Batavorum Marscacorum*, is not known to have been in early Antonine Scotland, but of course there are many forts where there is nothing to identify the units in occupation.

The present writers preferred to see the pottery of North African style as the product of artisans working in that tradition and travelling to Britain, perhaps from Gallia Narbonensis, to exploit new military markets – in effect, a civilian enterprise (Bidwell & Croom 2016b: 180–1). This view was adopted partly because of the lack of any evidence that units had been sent to Mauretania from Britain, and more generally because of the difficulties in linking ceramic styles to ethnic groups. The new diploma supplies the missing evidence for the movements of British units, and in the particular circumstances of *cohors I Baetasiorum*, the presence of one or more potters from Mauretania seems more plausible. Another unit, *cohors I Hamiorum*, is known at Bar Hill (*RIB* I: 2167 and 2172), and it might have been replaced by the *Baetasii* on their return from Mauretania after AD 152 or 153. In the stoking area of the baths at Bar Hill, there was a kiln where pottery of North African style was fired alongside a few Romano-British types (Keppie 1985; for the pottery, see Anderson 1985; Swan 1999: 426–7, 456–7). The kiln seems to have been built during a short period of abandonment, perhaps when there was a change of the units in occupation and after which the baths continued in use.

It is hard to see the likely link between the kiln and a unit that had served in Mauretania as coincidental, but does this mean that all the pottery of North African style on the Antonine Wall resulted from the return of units from Mauretania? Comparisons of the pottery at Bar Hill and Croy Hill are instructive. The kiln products at Bar Hill include types not seen elsewhere on the Antonine Wall (Anderson 1985: fig 14, nos 4–7), where platters with flat bases, sometimes recessed to fit on braziers, are predominant; the Croy Hill platters are of the latter type. Moreover, only three sherds of the kiln fabric have been recovered from the fort beyond the immediate vicinity of the kiln, where there were 900 sherds; indeed, it was suggested that all this material represented a single, failed firing (Anderson 1985: 77; cf Swan 1999: 457). At Croy Hill some of the platters are in the local fabric, while others seem to be from other sources, though not from Bar Hill. An instance of the wide distribution of North African-style pottery from an unknown source is the occurrence of Antonine Wall granular ware, as defined by Swan (1999: 462), with examples at Old

Kilpatrick, Bar Hill and Mumrills. Mortaria were also distributed widely. Croy Hill has a product of Cicu[.], working at Bearsden or possibly Balmuildy (12.3.5, above), and examples of stamped mortaria made by Sarrius at Bearsden are recorded from Balmuildy (3) and Camelon (1) (Hartley 2016: 139).

There is also some evidence for the movement of potters between forts. In the catalogue, it can be seen that some types in local fabrics have parallels at Bar Hill apparently in other fabrics: beakers (above, 13.4, nos 34 and 63), segmental bowls (above 13.4, nos 41 and 50) and a bowl with a reeded rim (above 13.4, no. 52). They are not of North African style nor are they amongst the other coarse ware types common in early Antonine Scotland. These vessels might have been made by a potter working at both sites. The close resemblances of a platter at Old Kilpatrick and some of those at Croy Hill (Swan 1999: 461; cf 13.4, no. 55.1, above) again suggest an itinerant potter or that perhaps there was a wide distribution of Croy Hill products. Some of the Croy Hill vessels also share potting techniques with other pottery made in Scotland, such as Inveresk ware. They are often relatively thick-walled (as Illus 13.3, no. 52) and carelessly finished: the burnishing can be patchy, and there are often drag lines on the exterior where inclusions have been caught when the pot was being wiped.

The picture that is emerging is of a complex system for the supply of coarse wares. Potters were working not only in Romano-British and North African traditions, but also in those of northern Gaul and the Rhineland, as indicated by the form of many of the bowls at Croy Hill and Bar Hill and perhaps by the typology of the Croy Hill mortaria. Some potters were probably itinerant, and local products could be distributed widely. New information probably supports the association of the kiln at Bar Hill with the return of a unit from Mauretania, but this might well be exceptional. A single explanation will probably not do for the presence in Britain of pottery of North African style, and some of it was probably made by immigrant potters working in that tradition, but not from North Africa, who were attracted by new and seemingly lucrative military markets.

13.5.4 The head pot

The shield-shaped sherd from the head pot preserves all of the facial features, although not the complete face; if this was done deliberately it was done with great care, as there is no evidence for the multiple chipping usually seen on deliberately-shaped pottery sherds (Illus 13.5 and 13.6). The sherd was found in the same drainage ditch on the east side of trackway leading down to the bypass road as the face mask (10, above), but at its southern end (LBF 1); both objects were presumably of ritual significance.

In Swan's survey of pottery from the Antonine Wall, the sherd was described as from a 'moulded head pot, possibly ... local' (1999: 456). This opinion explains the omission of the sherd from Swan and Monaghan's earlier survey of head pots of the York type (1993), all of which were modelled by hand rather than formed in a mould. However, in correspondence with the main author of the present volume in 2013, Maggi Darling and Franziska Dövenner doubted whether the pot was mould-made, and close examination of the surviving sherd has now confirmed these doubts. Dövenner also thought it unlikely that the sherd came from a figurine jug or the type of flagon where the face decorates an extension of the rim (a face flagon or *Gesichtskrug*). They were very varied in design and could have quite competently sculpted features, although none as fine as on the Croy Hill fragment (Braithwaite 2007: RB Type 41; cf fig J18, nos 1, 3).

In the 2013 correspondence, Darling compared the size of the Croy Hill vessel to two equally small head pots from York (presumably Swan & Monaghan 1993: fig 1, nos 2–3). The difficulty is that head pots in Britain, all of which were modelled by hand, have until now been thought to have first appeared in the earlier 3rd century (Swan & Monaghan 1993: 24–5; Braithwaite 2007: 440–51). There is not the slightest indication at Croy Hill of occupation extending beyond the early Antonine period, and if the sherd with the face is from a head pot, it would pull back the starting date in Britain of the general type. In retrospect this might have been expected, for the history of head pot production is not well established, most of the examples at York being from poorly dated graves or redeposited rubbish (Monaghan 1997: 914). An exception is one of the small head pots to which Darling was

probably referring. It was found complete together with a triple vase in a grave at the Trentholme Drive cemetery (Gillam 1968: fig 33, nos 9–10); the vase was in what was subsequently identified as white-slipped Ebor ware, production of which had probably ended by AD 200 (Swan & Monaghan 1993: 200; Monaghan 1997: 872). Although old vessels are sometimes included in Roman graves, it is likely that the Trentholme Drive burial was 2nd- rather than 3rd-century in date.

Swan and Monaghan's dating of head pots to the 3rd century also depended on a study of the hairstyles, which they allocated to the period *c* AD 205–25 (1993: 26). These hairstyles are depicted schematically, however, and second-century parallels can be found for some. The hairstyle on the small head pot from Trentholme Drive has a central parting with vertical strands of hair framing the face and is similar to that shown on coins of Faustina the Younger issued in AD 145–61 (such as *RIC* Antoninus Pius no. 495B). Her hair is slightly wavier but has a central parting; it covers her ears and is pulled into a small, circular coiled bun. Another small head pot, from Fishergate in York (Swan & Monaghan 1993: no. 2), has a different hairstyle: a wide raised band with horizontal strands in front of flatter hair at the back of the head and a very low, coiled circular bun. This can be compared to a hairstyle used by Faustina only after AD 161 (eg *RIC* Marcus Aurelius 1663; see Portable Antiquities Scheme SUR-98A12D), with a loose roll of hair with horizontal strands framing her face, and a low circular bun.

Dating simplified representations of hairstyles is not straightforward, and an added complication is that deities and mythical figures might be depicted with hairstyles based on Greek originals that bore no relation to contemporary Roman fashions. Head vases from elsewhere in the Empire, which were generally mould-made rather than hand-modelled like the British head pots, are thought to be connected to the cult of Bacchus or eastern mystery religions (Braithwaite 2007: 454–5). The York head pots were considered by Swan and Monaghan to have portrayed members of the Severan dynasty, mainly the females (1993: 25–8). This direct association cannot of course be made in the case of the Croy Hill vessel, but it is not necessary to see it as a portrayal of a member of the Antonine house. Braithwaite emphasised the cultic origins of the York head pots (2007: 450), while accepting that some were representations of the Severan dynasty, perhaps in the guise of deities that its members favoured. The small head pots discussed above probably represent an earlier stage in the York tradition when the vessels might have had a purely cultic function.

The Croy Hill head pot was probably a York product, as it is the only example of this vessel type known from Antonine Scotland; its fabric is not distinctive. Face pots, which probably served the same purposes as head pots, are commoner. There are examples with coffee-bean eyes in buff and red wares imported from southern England at Camelon and two with pellet eyes in a probably local orange-red fabric from Balmuirdy (Braithwaite 2007: 259, 267, pl J6; fig J8, no. 5; fig J16, nos 6–7).